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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/587,236

06/02/2000

Oran M. Thomas

KEYL-001/02US

7640

7590

05/22/2006

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EXAMINER

BOUTAH, ALINA A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2143

DATE MAILED: 05/22/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/587,236	THOMAS ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Alina N Boutah	2143	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 February 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-10,12-15,17,18,20,23,24 and 29-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 22 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-10,12-15,17,18,20,23,24 and 29-32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

This action is in response to Applicant's amendment filed February 21, 2006. Claims 1-2, 4-10, 12-15, 17, 18, 20, 23, 24 and 29-32 are pending in the current application.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on February 21, 2006 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 14, 21, and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The term "substantially" is indefinite because it fails to point out what is included or excluded by the claim language. It is unclear as where the boundary lies within the claim.

Claim Objections

Claim 24 is objected to as being dependent on cancelled claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 1-2, 4-10, 12-15, 17, 18, 20, 21, 24, 29, 31 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 5,796,952 issued to Davis et al. (hereafter referred to as Davis) in view of USPN 6,606,657 issued to Zilberstein et al. (hereinafter referred to as Zilberstein).

(Amended) Regarding claim 1, Davis teaches a system for monitoring usage of an electronic device comprising:

a client component installed in a client device, said client component including a profile builder to generate a monitoring profile using a profile database, said client component being operative to monitor usage of said client device in accordance with the monitoring profile and to generate corresponding usage (figure 3; col. 2, lines 12-20; col. 4, lines 24-32; col. 11, lines 59-65); and

a server component including the profile database, the server component being installed on a server device in communication with said client device, for receiving said usage data from

Art Unit: 2143

said client device (figure 4; Abstract; col. 4, lines 24-32, line 64 to col. 5, line 3; col. 5, lines 43-45);

wherein said monitoring profile includes information specifying which application programs, which are not a part of the system for monitoring usage, and which features of said application programs, installed on said client device are to be monitored by said client component (abstract, figures 3-7, col. 4, lines 45-53, col. 5, lines 35-56).

However, Davis does not explicitly teach monitoring usage during usage of said client device, the server component constructing an in-memory model of said usage of said client while the usage continues, and the server component further storing said usage data in a relational data store.

Zilberstein teaches monitoring usage of a client device in real-time and the server component further storing said usage data in a relational data store (col. 3, lines 1-9; and figure 4). At the time the invention was made, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to monitor usage of an electronic device in real time in order to allow users access information regarding the usage instantaneously, therefore facilitating the system maintenance.

Regarding claim 2, Davis teaches the system of claim 1 further including a data management component disposed to store said monitoring profile and to store said usage data provided to said server device (col. 4, line 63 to col. 5, line 3).

Regarding claim 4, Davis teaches the system of claim 1 further including a profile management component for creating said monitoring profile, said monitoring profile including a

Art Unit: 2143

plurality of application profiles each associated with one of said application programs (col. 5, lines 35-44).

Regarding claim 5, Davis teaches the system of claim 1 further including a data analysis component for, based upon said usage data, determining usage statistics associated with application program installed on said client device wherein said usage statistics include measurements of usage time, number of uses, and sequence of usage of specified ones of said application programs (col. 4, lines 13-15, 25-32, 41-53).

Regarding claim 6, Davis teaches the system of claim 1 further including a profile management component for creating and editing said monitoring profile, said monitoring profile specifying which application programs installed on said client device are to be monitored and a frequency with which said usage data is to be reported to said server component (col. 4, line 64 to col. 5, line 3).

Regarding claim 7, Davis teaches the system of claim 6 wherein said profile management component allows for definition of a set of users of said client device to be monitored in accordance with said monitoring profile (Abstract).

Regarding claim 8, Davis teaches the system of claim 1 wherein said client component includes a client monitoring agent for collecting said usage data in accordance with said monitoring profile and for providing said usage data to said server component, said client

Art Unit: 2143

component further including a client service for requesting said monitoring profile from said server component and for starting said client monitoring agent upon receipt of said monitoring profile from said server component (figure 3; Abstract; col. 4, line 3 to col. 5, line 55).

(Amended) Claim 9 is similar to claim 1 except there are a plurality of client components installed on a plurality of client computers, therefore is similarly rejected under the same rationale (figures 1 and 4; Abstract; col. 4, line 3 to col. 5, line 55).

Regarding claim 10, Davis teaches the system of claim 9 further including a data management component disposed to store said monitoring profiles and to store said usage data provided to said server component from each of said client components (figure 3).

Regarding claim 12, Davis teaches the system of claim 10 further including a profile management component for creating each of said monitoring profiles that each of said monitoring profiles includes a plurality of application profiles, each of said application profiles being associated with one of said associated application programs (figure 6).

Regarding claim 13, Davis teaches the system of claim 9 further including a profile management component for creating each of said monitoring profiles and for specifying which of said monitoring profiles will be applicable to usage of said client computers by particular users (figure 6).

Art Unit: 2143

(Amended) Regarding claim 14, Davis teaches a method for monitoring computer usage comprising the steps of:

generating respective monitoring profiles for one or more client computers (figure 3; col. 2, lines 12-20; col. 4, lines 24-32; col. 11, lines 59-65);

using a respective monitoring profile, monitoring usage of each of a plurality of client computers of the one or more client computers (Abstract; figures 1 and 3; col. 2, lines 12-20; col. 4, lines 24-32; col. 11, lines 59-65), wherein each respective monitoring profile includes information specifying which application programs other than the monitoring profile, and which features of said application programs, installed on said client device are to be monitored by said client component (abstract, figures 3-7, col. 4, lines 45-53, col. 5, lines 35-56);

generating usage data based upon said monitoring and providing said usage data to a server computer (figure 4; Abstract; col. 4, lines 24-32, line 64 to col. 5, line 3; col. 5, lines 43-45); and

transmitting said monitoring profiles to said client components from said server computer (Abstract; figures 1 and 3; col. 4, line 3 to col. 5, line 55).

However, Davis does not explicitly teach monitoring usage during usage of said client device, the server component constructing an in-memory model of said usage of said client while the usage continues, and the server component further storing said usage data in a relational data store.

Zilberstein teaches monitoring usage of a client device in real-time and the server component further storing said usage data in a relational data store (col. 3, lines 1-9; and figure 4). At the time the invention was made, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been

Art Unit: 2143

motivated to monitor usage of an electronic device in real time in order to allow users access information regarding the usage instantaneously, therefore facilitating the system maintenance.

Regarding claim 15, Davis teaches the method of claim 14 further including the step of storing said monitoring profiles remote from said client computers, and the step of storing said usage data provided to said server component from each of said client components (figure 4).

Regarding claim 17, this is similar to claim 14, therefore is rejected under the same rationale.

Regarding claim 18, this is similar to claim 7, therefore is rejected under the same rationale.

Regarding claim 20, Davis teaches the method of claim 14 further including the step of monitoring usage statistics for specified features of said application programs via predefined application programming interfaces of said application programs (col. 4, lines 13-15, 25-32, 41-53).

(Amended) Regarding claim 21, Davis teaches a method for monitoring user interaction with an application executing on a client device, said application being downloaded to said client device from a remote location, said method comprising the steps of:

Art Unit: 2143

embedding a reference to a collection agent with said application (abstract; col. 2, lines 12-20; col. 4, lines 24-32; col. 11, lines 59-65);

resolving said reference and installing said collection agent on said client device (Abstract);

generating a monitoring profile for the client device using a profile database at the remote location (col. 2, lines 12-20; col. 4, lines 24-32; col. 11, lines 59-65);

monitoring user interaction with the application executing on said client device in accordance with a monitoring profile and generating corresponding usage data (Abstract; figures 1 and 3; col. 4, line 3 to col. 5, line 55), wherein said monitoring profile includes information specifying which application programs, and which features of said application programs, installed on said client device are to be monitored (abstract, figures 3-7, col. 4, lines 45-53, col. 5, lines 35-56); and

transmitting, from a monitoring location, said monitoring profile to said collection agent and transmitting said usage data from said client device to said monitoring location (Abstract; figures 1 and 3; col. 4, line 3 to col. 5, line 55).

However, Davis does not explicitly teach monitoring usage during usage of said client device, the server component constructing an in-memory model of said usage of said client while the usage continues, and the server component further storing said usage data in a relational data store.

Zilberstein teaches monitoring usage of a client device in real-time and the server component further storing said usage data in a relational data store (col. 3, lines 1-9; and figure 4). At the time the invention was made, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been

Art Unit: 2143

motivated to monitor usage of an electronic device in real time in order to allow users access information regarding the usage instantaneously, therefore facilitating the system maintenance.

Regarding claim 29, Davis teaches the system of claim 1 wherein said client component includes means for monitoring usage statistics for specified features of said application programs via predefined application programming interfaces of said application programs (col. 3, lines 4-14).

Regarding claims 31 and 32, although Davis does not explicitly teach the system of claim 1 wherein the client component comprises a hooks dynamic linked library injected into one or more application programs activated by a user, it is well known in the computing art (particularly programming) that in order to execute a program, a procedure must be called on. In this case, a dynamic link library or DLL as claimed.

Claim 30 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Davis in view of Zilberstein, in further view of USPN 6,115,742 issued to Franklin.

(Amended) Regarding claim 30, Davis teaches a method for monitoring user interaction with an application executing on a client device, said application being downloaded to said client device from a remote location, said method comprising the steps of:

embedding a reference to a collection agent within said application (col. 2, lines 40-52);

resolving said reference and installing said collection agent on said client device (col. 11, lines 59-65);

monitoring usage of said client device in accordance with a monitoring profile and generating corresponding usage data, wherein said monitoring profile includes information specifying which application programs, and which features of said application programs, installed on said client device are to be monitored (abstract, figures 3-7, col. 4, lines 45-53, col. 5, lines 35-56).

However, Davis does not explicitly teach: determining if secure protocol is used for communication between the client device and the remote location; if secure protocol is used, adjusting the collection agent to use secure protocol, otherwise using unsecure protocol; using either secure protocol or unsecure protocol as appropriate, transmitting, from a monitoring location, said monitoring profile to said collection agent; monitoring usage during usage of said client device, the server component constructing an in-memory model of said usage of said client while the usage continues, and the server component further storing said usage data in a relational data store.

Franklin teaches determining if secure protocol is used for communication between the client device and the remote location; if secure protocol is used, adjusting the collection agent to use secure protocol, otherwise using unsecure protocol; and using either secure protocol or unsecure protocol as appropriate, transmitting, from a monitoring location, said monitoring profile to said collection agent (col. 2, line 54 to col. 3, line 2).

Zilberstein teaches monitoring usage of a client device in real-time and the server component further storing said usage data in a relational data store (col. 3, lines 1-9; and figure 4).

Art Unit: 2143

At the time the invention was made, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to use secure and nonsecure protocol to transmit monitoring profile in order to provide the option of having private communication between clients and servers. One of ordinary skill in the art would have also been motivated to monitor usage of an electronic device in real time in order to allow users access information regarding the usage instantaneously, therefore facilitating the system maintenance.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments have been fully considered and are persuasive. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alina N. Boutah whose telephone number is 571-272-3908. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (9:00 am - 5:00 pm).

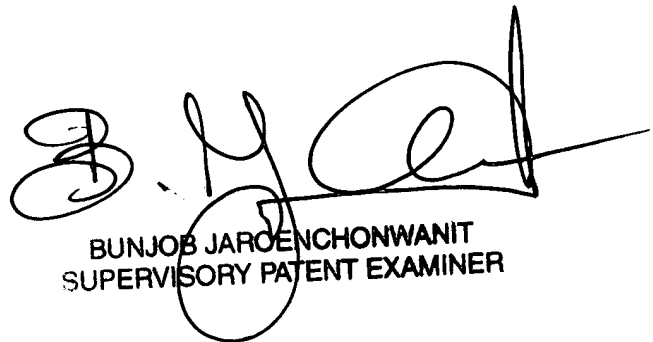
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David A. Wiley can be reached on 571-272-3923. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2143

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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